

Wigan South Parish Magazine

- Holy Trinity
- St Andrew's
- St Peter's
- St Aidan's
- St Luke's
- St Thomas'

St Thomas' and St Luke's edition

THE HEAD THAT ONCE WAS
CROWNED IN THORNS

IS CROWNED IN GLORY NOW

April 2023

70p

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HE IS RISEN!

Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

Funerals

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church, followed by a committal.

Marriage

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

If you would like further information or to book a wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine. Funeral Directors will book any funerals.

Magazine Deadlines

Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk.

	May	June	July
Deadline for material	20 April	18 May	15 June
Publication date	30 April	28 May	25 June

EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

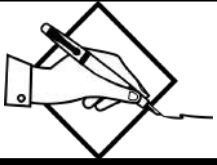
Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



A Letter from Sue

God's greatest gift

We have travelled through Lent looking at the generosity of God in the desert place and now, at the beginning of April, we move into the highs and lows of Holy Week, imagining ourselves journeying with Jesus and his disciples.

We are there lining the dusty road into Jerusalem as Jesus, seated on a donkey, rides by whilst crowds of people wave palm branches shouting, 'Hosanna'. Are we now, like the crowds that day, overjoyed - looking to Jesus as our Messiah, our Saviour?

We imagine ourselves gathering around the Passover table. There He washes the feet of his disciples and then shares bread and wine with them. We may sit and wait with them as Jesus in the garden prays to his Father. Is our spirit willing but our flesh weak, like those who fell asleep despite Jesus asking them to stay awake and pray for him?

We watch from afar as Peter is asked if he is a follower of Jesus and he disowns him three times. Do we deny knowing Christ through our thoughts and actions?

We are horrified as Jesus is questioned, flogged, a crown placed on his head – a crown of thorns. He is forced to carry a cross and then stripped naked and fastened to it. And then we watch as he slowly dies. How does the knowledge that he died for each one of us shape us?

On Holy Saturday we wait, as the women waiting to be able to anoint Jesus' body. Taken down from the cross he is placed in the tomb. What is our response when we feel hopeless, when we think Jesus is absent from our lives?

Then on Sunday, we see the stone rolled away and the empty tomb and relive the stories of those who met with the risen Christ. Our faith in the Easter hope of the risen Christ means that we too may daily meet with him.

Are we open to meet with him – through prayer, through scripture, through our fellow Christians, through where he is before us in the needs of the world?

Each of these days take us deeper into the story, and each time we walk through it, if we are open to God's presence, we may learn and experience something new.

It can be tempting to only engage in the story on Sundays as this is our routine, but by doing this, the meaning of Easter is lost, as we would move from Palm Sunday straight to Easter Sunday.

There are many opportunities to join with others in our parish and churches as we approach the wonder and the joy of Easter morning. Why not commit to journeying more closely with Jesus this Holy Week? And as you do so, reflect afresh on the generosity of God and the gift of his son.

Sue Thomas



Parish News

Regular Events

Every Tuesday, 10am – 12pm: Coffee Morning in St Thomas' church hall

Every Wednesday, 1pm – 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies in St Thomas' church hall
(term time only)

7.30pm: Women's Fellowship at St Peter's

Every Friday, 2pm – 3.15pm: Gentle dance class at St Luke's

2.10pm: Bible study in St Thomas' church hall



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 29th March, 7pm: Bible Journaling at the Salvation Army, Ashton

Saturday 1st April, 10am – 3pm: Always Ashton easter Trail, ending in St Thomas' church

Friday 7th April, 10.30am – 12pm: Messy Church at St Thomas'

Saturday 8th April, 7pm: Easter Praise led by St Thomas', St Luke's, Beacon, Hope and Bryn Baptist churches at St Thomas' church

Tuesday 25th April, 1.30pm - 3pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Café at St Andrew's

Saturday 29th April, 11am – 1pm Spring brunch at St Luke's

11am - 2pm Spring Fayre at St Andrew's



Advanced Notices

Sunday 7th May, after the 10.30am service: Faith Lunch at Holy Trinity in celebration of the King's Coronation

Saturday 10th June: Parish Meal at the Masonic Hall, Bryn

Services in April

Sunday 2nd Palm Sunday	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Sta's4all 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship together 11.00am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Aidan's St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 5th	10.00am Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 6th Maundy Thursday	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion 7.00pm: Wigan South Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Luke's
Friday 7th Good Friday	10.00am: Reflective Service 11.00am: Good Friday Service 11.00am: Good Friday Service 11.00am: Reflective Service	St Aidan's On the Green at Downall Green St Thomas' St Luke's
Sunday 9th Easter Sunday	6.30am: Sunrise Holy Communion 9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Holy Communion 10.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Holy Communion	Three Sisters St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's
Wednesday 12th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 13th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

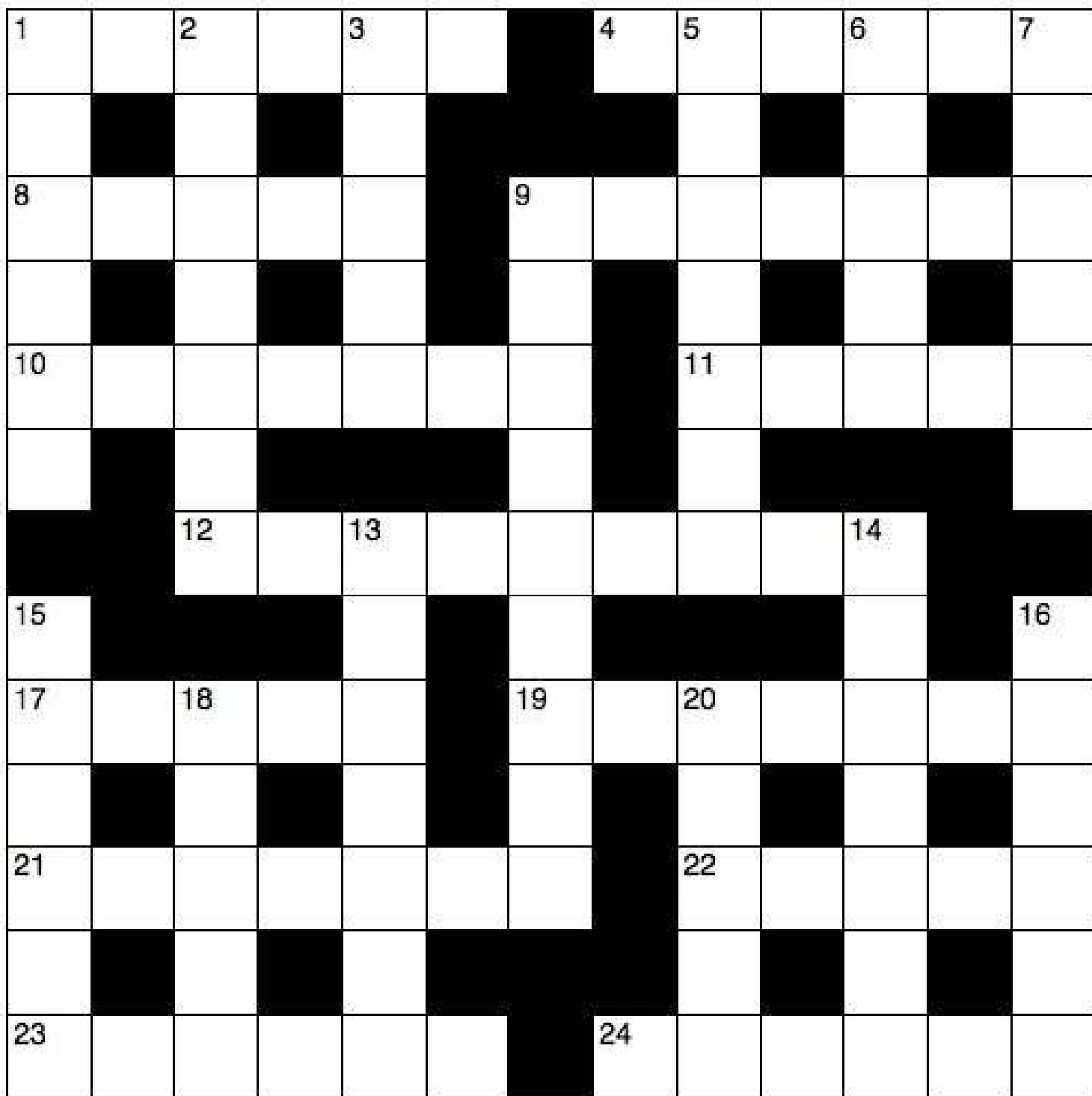
Sunday 16th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Café Church 10.00am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 19th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidans'
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 23rd	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.15am: Café Church 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Family Worship 4.00pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 26th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 30th	10.30am: Wigan South Service	St Thomas'



Everyone is welcome to join all services.

If you would like to attend any services across the parish and need assistance with transport, please get in contact with your local leadership team.

Crossword



Answers on page 15

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

April Holy Days

2nd April: Hugh of Grenoble, fighting corruption and building hospitals

Murky crimes committed by various church leaders, local shops in trouble, roads needing repair, and hospitals in a sorry state.... wanting to retire, but the law said no... it seems that Hugh of Grenoble was dealing with 21st century problems in the 11th century.

Born at Chateauneuf in 1052 as the son of a knight, Hugh attended the cathedral school of Valence and became a canon. He was talented and learned, good looking – and yet bashful. Sounds a bit like a shy public-school boy. Certainly, Hugh's parents' contacts and his privileged schooling earned him a good job early on – as secretary to the Bishop of Die, who was also a papal legate. In 1080 Hugh was taken along to the Synod of Avignon, where the deplorable state of the diocese of Grenoble was reviewed. It was afflicted with widespread simony and usury, and clerical promiscuity was rampant.

Hugh was outraged at what he heard – and was soon in a position to do something about it. He was made Bishop of Grenoble by Pope Gregory VII and went on to fight the excesses and sins of the clergy with notable success. He became virtual co-founder of the Carthusian order. The common people soon came to love him, for as well as reforming their churches and restoring their cathedral, he built a bridge, a marketplace and three hospitals for them.

In later years Hugh wanted to retire, but like many people today, was not able to do so: in his case the Pope would not let him. During the last few weeks of his life Hugh went back to basics: he seemed to forget everything but the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms. He was greatly loved, and so canonised only two years after his death in 1134.

6th April: Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.



This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.



Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill. The pantry is regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.

St Thomas' Church Hall, Ashton in Makerfield

Tuesday 11am–12pm

Thursday 3pm–4pm

Saturday 11am–12pm

Sunday 3pm–4pm

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April Services

	St Thomas'	St Luke's
Sunday 2nd	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am Family Worship
Thursday 6th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	7.00pm Wigan South Holy Communion
Friday 7th	11.00am Good Friday Service	11.00am Reflective Service
Sunday 9th	6.30am: Holy Communion at Three Sisters	
	9.00am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together	11.00am Holy Communion
Thursday 13th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 16th	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Prayer	11.00am: Family Worship
Thursday 20th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 23rd	9.00am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together	11.00am Family Worship
Thursday 27th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 30th	10.30am: Wigan South Service	

During April, there are many events and services for us to look forward to. See below for more information about these upcoming dates and see the front of the magazine for a full list of activities across Wigan South.

Wednesday 29th March

After the success of the last session, the next 'Bible journaling' workshop will be at 7pm at the Salvation Army. We will look at a bible passage then illustrate it by painting, drawing or mixed media. This passage will be printed out so there is no need to bring your own bible.

Saturday 1st April

The 'Always Ashton' Easter Trail will end in St Thomas' church. Between 10.30am and 3pm we will be serving refreshments and running Easter crafts to share the good news of Jesus to the hundreds of families that shall enter our church that day.

Friday 7th April

Good Friday Messy Church is from 10.30am to 12pm in the church hall with fish and chips for the children.

After the reflective services on Good Friday, we will gather for fish and chips. Orders must be placed in advance - please see the forms at the back of church.

Saturday 8th April

Starting at 7pm, we will be joining with Beacon, Hope and Bryn Baptist churches in St Thomas' church for an Easter praise evening.

Saturday 29th April

There will be a Spring brunch at St Luke's from 11am to 1pm

These events are in addition to the regular weekly activities:

Tuesdays, 10am - 12pm: Coffee Morning in St Thomas' church hall

Wednesdays, 1pm - 2.30pm (term time only): Wednesday Weenies in St Thomas' church hall

Fridays, 2pm - 3.15pm: Gentle dance class at St Luke's

Fridays, 2.10pm: Bible study in St Thomas' church hall

News from our churches

In last month's magazine I asked for a volunteer to manage the water pressure on our church central heating boiler, I am delighted to say that our old friend Graham Bailey has stepped up to take charge of this function along with his gardening duties and the putting out of the church and hall bins. Thank you Graham.

On the third Sunday in Lent, as part of the sermon series on God's generosity, Jan mentioned some of the opportunities in our church life that we can give back by volunteering to take on some of the essential jobs around church. I was particularly delighted to hear that Michelle mentioned this on arriving home and her husband and son immediately volunteered to paint the flag pole.

I love delving into our past and discovering photos of previous events. I came across this photo of a choir taken some time ago. A lot of smiling faces and sadly a number of members who are no longer with us who do you recognise?

Malcolm



Africa Fund News

St Thomas and St Luke's Africa fund supports two amazing Christian-run projects in Uganda: Biojemms (who operate children's homes in Rukungiri and Kampala) plus the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project which provides outlying communities with access to clean water and proper sanitation. Both projects play a massive part in saving and changing lives.

We recently received a newsletter from Biojemms which you can read here: <https://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/bjnews0123.pdf> It shows how much help is being provided by God's people.

Each month, generous donors support the Africa fund with standing orders. Unfortunately, we have lost donors in recent years because people have died, moved from St Thomas' or are unable to continue to give. We therefore need additional income to maintain our existing levels of giving.

Please consider setting up a regular monthly donation so we can continue to support this incredible work. We would especially welcome new donors and if you are able to help or have any questions then please contact Chris Wooff (01942 724207) or by email to chriswooff@outlook.com.

You can find out more about the Africa fund on our web site: <http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/ourworld/africafund/>



Mothers' Union



Diary

Wednesday 19 April Our speaker this evening is Anna Davies who will be telling us her faith in the world of sport. The meeting time is 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Advance Notice

At the AGM, which sadly due to ill health I was unable to attend, I indicated in my report that I felt that it is time for me to retire as branch leader and to give the opportunity for someone else who is younger and able to move the branch forward with perhaps new ideas. I have been privileged to hold the position for about 25 years and I reach a very special birthday later this year. Also, I am having great problems with my eyes having developed glaucoma.

Through this magazine I would like to repeat my thanks to the officers who have served during my time as Branch Leader both as our secretary and treasurer and the many committee members who have assisted in making my time in office so memorable.

There have been many highlights over those 25 years which include my 6 years as a diocesan trustee, but I especially remember the visit in 2008 of Bishop James for our special communion service as we were joined by all the branches in the Wigan Deanery to celebrate the centenary of our branch.

Loving Saviour, Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we rejoice in your resurrection.

May our songs of praise
resound in heaven and earth
bringing glory to your name.

Amen

Love and Easter blessings
Barbara

1875 A WATER SUPPLY FOR ASHTON (Part 2)

In 1875 members of the Ashton Local Board/council appeared in front of a Committee, which included Lord Randolph Churchill, in the House of Commons to present their plans for providing clean supplies of drinking water. It is interesting to listen to each individual as they spoke before the Committee concerning the desperate need for clean drinking water in Ashton.

Mr. Adolphus Moubert – I live in Garswood and I am the land agent for Lord Gerard and Chairman of the Local Board. We need a water supply for c9,000 there are many new houses and 300 about to be erected. The present supply of water is inefficient. In very dry weather the inhabitants have to go to a stagnant pond called Field Pond and there is a great deal of trespassing on private property to get water.

Mr. Valiant – I carry on the business of lock & hinge maker in Ashton under the name of John Whitley & Co., Gerard Street. I have lived here 19 years. The inhabitants obtain their water mainly from a well – The Steam Engine Well which is 200 – 300 yards from the centre of town. This well is supplied from a spring in the middle of the brook. My water is always carried and I have to pay for it. There are 2 other wells – the Town Green Well and the Warms/Wombs about 500 – 600 yards from the centre of town. The Town Green Well does not always supply in dry weather. The Jack Brook was formerly used for domestic purposes but the colliery water that flows into it has made it unfit, My works uses the water of the Down Brook and receives c1,000 gallons a day. I have a small tank with a drain connecting with the brook. In dry weather there is such a fall in the brook that we cannot get any water to the tank without using artificial means. 400 yards from my works there is a mill used by Mr. Yates. There are no works between us taking water from the stream. We are the only 2 manufacturers in Ashton who take the water.

(Mr. Valiant lived at 14 Claremont House, Gerard Street, probably in the area of the former billiard hall next to Nat West bank. In 1907 W. Valiant was owner of the “Rookeries” 86 Liverpool Road. 1921 John Whitley & Co. was sold to Thomas Crompton. Mr. Valiant’s grave is in St. Thomas’, Ashton).

Mr. Yates – I am a farmer and used to carry on business at the Mill a 1/4 mile from Mr. Valiant's. I gave up the Mill in 1869. Between Ashton and Golborne there are no works on the stream. I used to impound the water in the Mill and in dry weather sometimes took all the water in the stream leaving none to pass by the Mill. In extremely dry weather I could only use one pair of millstones for 1 hour a day. I have known the people of Ashton to drink water from field drains. (Ashton Mill was on the bend at the end of Princess Road. Mr. Yates had a dam creating a millpond in the area in front of the former "Millstone Inn").

Mr. Chris Clarke – I am a mining engineer and surveyor and manager of the Garswood Coal & Iron Co. I was engineer and surveyor for 19 years to Sir R.T. Gerard. I am well acquainted with the water needs of the area. The local population is increasing. I have secured land for the building of 300 cottages in Foot's Cross (Four Footed Cross = Bryn Cross). I do not have a single cottage in the locality that is unoccupied and many of the workers live in Wigan because there is no accommodation for them in Ashton. I believe the trades of the area will cause the 300 houses I am about to erect to be at once occupied. There is really no water supply. The people have to get their water from the brooks, from wells, and from field drains. The collieries operations have greatly diminished the supply. The people are subject to great difficulty in order to obtain water. They may be seen out at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning standing by every little streamlet trying to get some water. I have tried to sink wells in Foot's Cross area but the wells have been drained by the collieries.

Rev. J. Melville – I have been Rector (Holy Trinity) of Ashton for 6 years. Down Brook runs through my garden. There is scarcely any supply of water in the district. In summer even my own separate well becomes dry. The people often come at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning and pilfer the water. The Down Brook as it flows through my garden is very impure. I have frequently to speak to the people for trespassing for water. Even the water they get there from the brook is unfit for use. In some parts the sewage gets into the brook - caused by the drainage from the dwelling houses between the Rectory and the water gathering ground. From my house to the gathering ground is ½ mile. To the left of the brook is a hamlet of 70 – 80 houses whose drainage goes into the brook. The water in the brook rises as much as 2 feet in the wet weather. In the dry season it is an almost imperceptible stream,

Donations Information

Regular Giving: We have traditionally taken envelope donations in our plate offerings and these monies help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. If you are unable to get to a service and wish to still use your envelopes, please deliver them, to Malcolm and Barbara's (32 Townfields). In the alternative, please consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme by phoning 0333 002 1271 as we can get the tax back much quicker this way.

Donations: Please place any donations in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please post this through the Vicarage door. Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' PCC. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

Gift Aid: If you pay tax in the UK and would like church to be able to claim 25p for every £1 you donate, please complete a Gift Aid form or state on your envelope that you are a UK tax payer, would like church to claim Gift Aid and include your full name and address.


Wills and Legacies: If you wish to discuss any issues around Wills and Legacies please ring the Parish Treasurer, Sarah Riley, on 01942 722747.

Funds currently in use are:

- Africa Fund
- Asylum Seek
- Audio Visual
- Church Hall
- Buildings and Maintenance
- Food Ministry
- Garden of Rest
- General
- Grave Maintenance
- Heath Road Graveyard
- Heating
- Fit for the Future

Unless otherwise stated, donations will go into the General fund

Donations & Remembrance



In memory of **Marion Pilling**
from family and friends

Donation for Garden of Remembrance
in memory of **Joan and Ray Parry**
and **Roy Parry**

From Christine Kelly, Hazel Casson, Alan Parry & Janet Parry & family

Donations in thanks for Home Communion

Donations to General, Asylum Seeker and Pantry Building Funds

St Luke's donations

In fond memories of **Rev Harold Cunliffe** from
Michael & Linda Ladyman
Michael & Carole Pye

We recognise with thanksgiving the kind legacy donation received
from Madge Twist

We pray that we use these monies abundantly, generously and joyfully in
ministry that bears witness to His unfailing grace.

The Registers



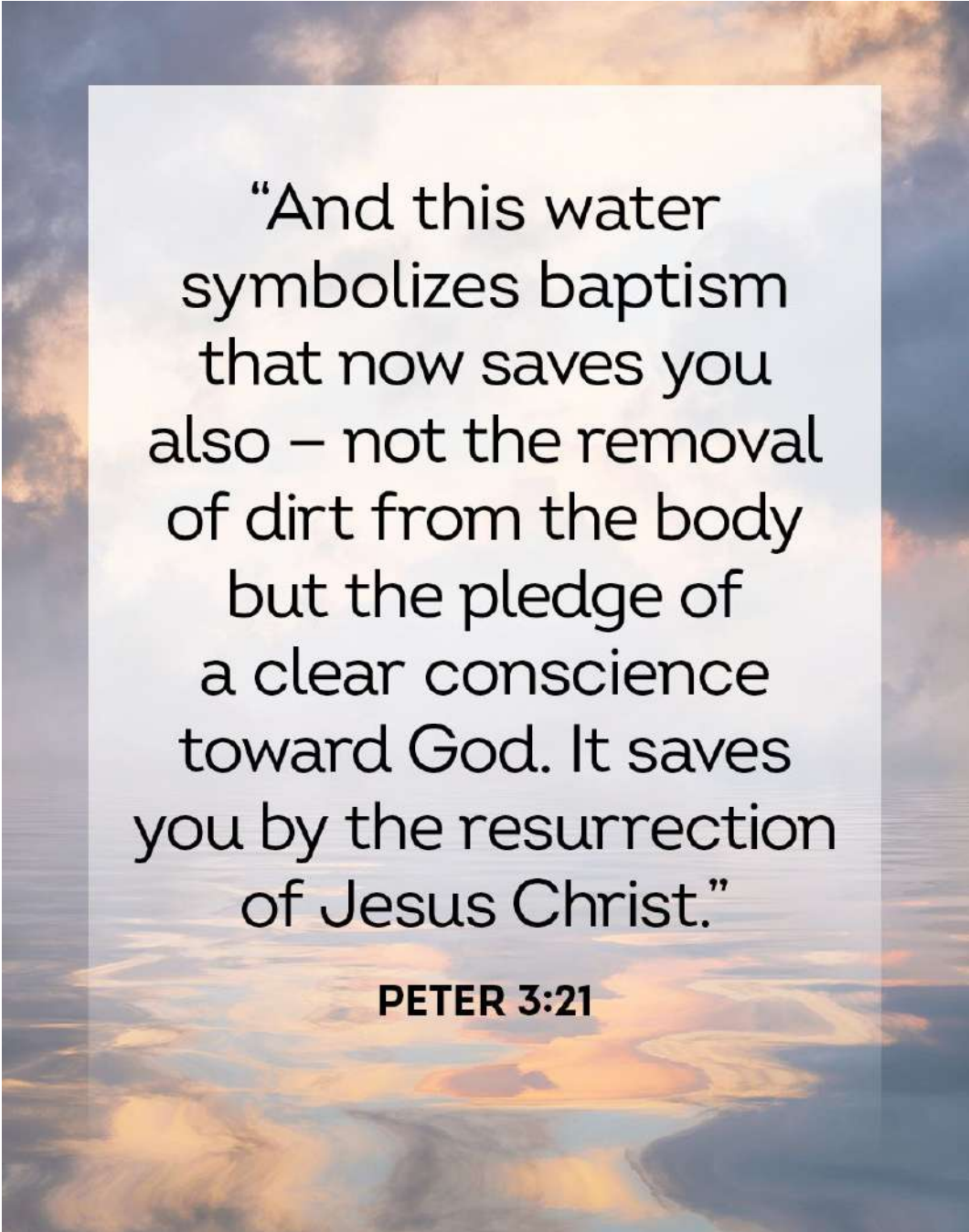
Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

2nd March	Michael John Scully	70
2nd March	Maureen Scully	67
2nd March	Stella Turner	93
9th March	Barbara May Henny Whelan	71
10th March	John Barrie Steadman	78
12th March	Keith James Sutton	69
15th March	Jeffrey Malcolm Cook	79
20th March	Ronald James Brown	85
23rd March	Marion Pilling	93
26th March	Jean Rampling	73
30th March	Edith Maltby	96

"May the road rise to meet you, and the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm on your face and the rains fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you gently in the palm of his hand."

Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

5th March	Dexter Lawrence Yates
12th March	Finley Ross Lloyd
12th March	Alba Wren Stoneley
26th March	Charlotte Irene Shoesmith



“And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

PETER 3:21

St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

Coffee Mornings

Tues 10am–12pm at St Thomas'
Barbara Taylor
205136

Wednesday Weenies

Wed 1pm–2.30pm in Church Hall
Jan Cornthwaite
721626

Mothers' Union

3rd Wed 7.30pm at St Thomas'
Barbara Taylor
205136

Fairtrade Stall

3rd Sun 11.45am at St Thomas'
Anne Wooff
724207

Litter Pick

3rd Sat 10am–12pm from Church Hall car park
Chris Wooff
724207

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
723679

Asylum Seeker Support

English Class
Thurs 2pm - 3pm
Social Drop in
Sun 1pm - 3pm

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter
712709

Anne & Chris Wooff
724207

For more information, please visit our website at
stthomasstluke.org.uk

Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am - 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm - 4pm

Children's Sunday Clubs at St Thomas' Karen Cunliffe 07721770305

Sunday 10.45am

Girl Guiding Rachel Starkie 718350

Brownies: Thursday 6.30pm

Guides: Tuesday 7.00pm

St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

Sunday Morning Worship Local Mission

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St Luke's: Carole Pye 517318

Readers

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Alan Harrison 718618
Carole Pye 517318
Helen Weavers 07796334457

Assistant Wardens

St Thomas': Tony Cornthwaite 721626
Paula Gillespie 711270

St Luke's: Carol Pye 517318
John Boon 204082

St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

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St Luke's: John Boon 204082

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Bill Schafer 717300

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St Thomas' Organist

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St Thomas' and St Luke's
Church, Ashton in Makerfield